



NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1912.

# Woodrow Wilson—the Family Man, the Scholar, the Statesman

The President-Elect of These United States Will Transplant from Princeton to the White House a Charming Family Life in Which Mrs. Wilson and Each of Their Three Daughters Are Notable Factors.

WHEN Woodrow Wilson takes his place as the twenty-seventh President of the United States on March 4 next he will bring with him to the White House a charming family—charming partly because of the delightful simplicity which characterizes its home life. For Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and their three talented daughters are just chums, interested in one another's welfare and happy and contented in their own environment, the environment of the home.

The daughters are Miss Margaret Wilson, the eldest; Miss Jessie Woodrow Wilson and Miss Eleanor Randolph Wilson, the youngest, and together they represent a combination of literature, art, music and philanthropy—a natural inheritance from the parents. Margaret is an excellent musician and has a fine soprano voice; Jessie is a settlement worker in Philadelphia, while Eleanor is an artist of promising ability. All are fond of good literature.

Mr. Wilson himself is a home loving man, always anxious for the company of his family. He glories in the life by the fireside, and even in the midst of a strenuous political campaign he does not fail to enjoy at least some share of it. Not more than a year ago he travelled 150 miles in an automobile through a driving rainstorm so that he might be with his family on Sunday.

## THEIR INTERESTS IN COMMON.

All of the Wilsons are deep thinkers, and oftentimes in the winter months they are wont to discuss human problems when they gather before a fireplace of burning hickory logs, the light from the flames furnishing the one illumination of the room.

Before Woodrow Wilson entered into active political life it was his chief delight to sit beside his fireplace surrounded by his wife and daughters and to read aloud to them. He has not had much time to do this since he became Governor of New Jersey, but many times during the winter months, even with the cares of state upon him, he has been able to give at least a small portion of his time to this beautiful custom, almost a tradition in the Wilson family. Old and new essays, English classics and poetry, especially Shakespeare and Chesterton, are the favorites of the Wilson fireside.

Mr. Wilson is an excellent reader of dialect. He is especially fond of Mr. Dooley, P. Peter Dunne's creation. The President-elect, however, is not very fond of fiction, devoting but little time to that class of literature. His favorite novel is "Lorna Doone." He has already read it four times and expects to read it as many more.

## FAVORITE SUMMER HAUNTS.

The Wilson family, as a whole, likes a collection of good letters, and is especially fond of such volumes as "The Gentlest Art," compiled by E. V. Lucas.

While Governor Wilson's tastes run to books, he also has a fondness for music and an interest in things philanthropic. He has a fine tenor voice and frequently sings for his family, his daughter Margaret accompanying him on the piano. He is fond of art, and while president of Princeton University spent many of his summers with his family at Old Lyme, Conn., with artists as his neighbors. He also enjoys going to Rydal, the quaint English town, very like Old Lyme, where many artists dwell.

"It was like a refreshing breeze," he said, in telling about his vacations, "to be in the company of these care-free fellows. It was a jump from one atmosphere to another, and the effect was very stimulating."

Mr. Wilson is exceedingly fond of outdoor exercise. He likes long walks, and prefers the companionship of the members of his own family when enjoying this diversion. He is also fond of golfing, but does not boast of being a champion. In fact, when the newspaper men with him at Sea Girt asked regarding the score he had made after finishing a round he would jokingly remark that he de-

clined to discuss it because "the score was simply shocking."

Mr. Wilson is a man of deep sympathies, and nothing touches him more than a tale of human distress. He is also a very determined man. When he snaps that square jaw of his it is better to take it for granted that he is going to do just what he has said he would do. He is also exceedingly independent.

## IMPRESSED BY HIS BACKBONE.

One day during the summer at Sea Girt a well known New York Supreme Court Justice had a conference with Governor Wilson. When the jurist reappeared one of the newspaper men asked him what he thought of the Governor.

"Why," he said, "he is the most independent candidate I have ever met, and I have met a good many of them."

It was not long afterward that some friends of Mr. Wilson got into a little row among themselves concerning a matter which interested Governor Wilson intensely. In fact it had to do with his candidacy for the Presidency, and, to a great extent, concerned Mr. Wilson's future. One of these friends endeavored to pin the Governor down to a certain agreement, and was as persistent in his attempt to tie up Mr. Wilson that the latter ended the discussion with this crisp remark:

"Gentlemen, I am a free born American citizen, and I am going to do just as I please."

Mr. Wilson is a good judge of human nature and a very keen observer, and it does not take him very long to separate the wheat from the chaff. He has nerves of steel, and during the trying days of the Democratic National Convention at Baltimore he, of all the little group at Sea Girt was the coolest and calmest.

Many persons think that when Woodrow Wilson gets into the White House they are going to find a stern and austere teacher as President of this big country of ours. On the contrary, those whose paths lead them to him will find usually a genial and charming companion, with a fund of good stories and always ready to grasp the hand of any person, whether he be laborer or lawyer or banker.

## THE TWO MINGLED STRAINS.

It is true that one may occasionally find Mr. Wilson stern and almost cold. This is when the Woodrow that is in him comes to the surface. But it is not a common experience. There are two strains in the President to be—the Woodrow, the Scotch, maternal strain, tinged perhaps with aloofness, and the other, the Wilson, the Irish, whose nature is genial and pleasant, who is fond of good company and of a good story. This is the strain that predominates in Mr. Wilson.

The President-elect is a delightful companion and a splendid story teller, with a fund of humorous stories almost inexhaustible. One of his favorites is on President Hadley of Yale. It is as follows: Mr. Hadley one day went to his room to take a bath and there found a boy of possibly ten years using the tub as a miniature lake, upon which he was sailing some toy boats. Mr. Hadley told the boy that he would have to give up his fun a while as he wished to take a bath; the lad reluctantly complied. Soon afterward the little fellow, walking through the main street of New Haven, stopped a passerby with this remark: "President Hadley cannot take his bath to-day."

The passerby, somewhat surprised, asked: "Why not?"

"Because I have the stopper," said the boy, holding up the stopper of the bathtub.

Governor Wilson is conservative in his tastes concerning clothes. He never uses tobacco in any form, and liquor is an unknown beverage in the Wilson home.

Few people know it, but Mr. Wilson narrowly escaped becoming a printer. His father was a Presbyterian preacher, but before taking up theology he, with his six brothers, had worked at the type case, and it was his dearest wish that his son Woodrow, should follow the same occupa-



Study of Governor Wilson's Characteristics Reveals the Deep Thinking, Far Seeing "Canny Scotch" Blood, with a Pleasant Admixture of the Genial, Witty Irish—His Self-Training for Public Office.

tion. It was in the days when the country newspaper owner not only wrote his own editorials and news matter, but also set the type and helped run the press, and the elder Wilson was very much disturbed when young Woodrow in his early days preferred the reading of books to setting type.

The Governor is fond of debate. He likes to take what he thinks is the right side of a question and argue untiringly to gain his point.

Since Mr. Wilson entered actively into political life he has been an ardent exponent of pitiless publicity in all the affairs of government.

They tell a story at Trenton, however, of how the newspaper men balked Governor Wilson the only time he ever endeavored to put the seal of secrecy upon legislative action. This was during his famous fight against James Smith, Jr., the Democratic boss of New Jersey, who wanted to go again to the United States Senate.

The night before the vote was to be taken a conference of the Democratic Senators and Assemblymen was called for 8 o'clock. Earlier in the afternoon Governor Wilson had conferred with some of the Democratic leaders, and they decided that the evening conference must be secret and that no newspaper men should be allowed to attend. This proceeding did not appeal very strongly to one or two newspaper men at the capital, and they decided that they were going to the conference, if possible.

## A TRICK THAT WORKED.

When the legislators reached the conference room that evening they found all the newspaper men seated in a corner, and, much to the surprise of the leaders, after the conference had been called to order a young Assemblyman arose and moved that the newspaper men be allowed to stay. There were a half dozen seconds of the motion, whereupon the leaders who had been in conference with Governor Wilson in the afternoon opposed it vigorously. When the vote was taken it was overwhelmingly in favor of letting the newspaper men stay.

Governor Wilson to this day probably does not know that the newspaper men framed the whole thing up, that they had prevailed upon the Assemblyman to make the motion allowing them to stay and had also secured the seconds for the motion, and, further, in order to make it sure, had checked up the various Democratic lawmakers so that they knew just where they stood before the conference began.

Although Governor Wilson has lived in the North for a long time, he has not lost his love for Southern cooking. He just loves chicken cooked Southern style, and dotes on candied sweet potatoes (what the negro down South calls the "yaller yams"), with the accompanying spoon bread and rice. The Governor confesses that he has not yet found any one who can prepare these things better than Mrs. Wilson herself.

He is an authority on the science of constitutional government. When he takes his place at Washington it will be as one who has studied and familiarized himself with everything that the country has done and with what has been done for the country up to the present day.

Mrs. Wilson is her husband's companion and her children's chum, and is one of the most public spirited women in America to-day. She believes that the intelligent woman of to-day has a duty both to the home and the community. And she does not feel that in order to be a good wife and mother a woman should bury herself in her home and pay no attention to the outside world. Although not very fond of society, she is a delightful hostess, and any one who has visited the Wilson home is impressed with the charm and democracy of the coming mistress of the White House. The village laborer receives just as hearty a greeting from Mrs. Wilson as the village banker. She plays no favorites.

Mrs. Wilson is an artist of no mean ability, and a number of her pictures adorn the walls of her home. Before Governor Wilson became a national figure in America she devoted considerable time to the study of painting, expecting to make it a life work. Then the children came, and she found greater happiness in training them. But now that they have grown up she is once more devoting some time to her old work.

Mrs. Wilson is a home woman through and through, interested and eager for the success of her husband and her daughters and devoted to each one of them. She also takes a quiet but energetic interest in charitable organizations, and is in close touch with the work of nearly every charitable, corrective or educational institution in New Jersey. She knows all about the details of the war against tuberculosis, she knows what is being done to help feeble-minded children, and she is also familiar with the movement to save the juvenile courts of the state from the little waifs who occasionally stray from the fold.

## AS REGARDS SUFFRAGE.

It is twenty-one years since Mr. Wilson went to Princeton. Mrs. Wilson says that his subject was politics then, and has not changed since. Mrs. Wilson works together with her husband, all the time preserving her own individuality. She believes that she aids him most by keeping alive his interest in the beautiful things of life and making it impossible for him to become too exclusively a politician.

Mrs. Wilson's own tastes have always run in the direction of poetry, art and nature. The great English poets—Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth, Browning—are her favorites. And in the old days she and Mr. Wilson read together constantly. As the daughter of a Presbyterian minister in Georgia Mrs. Wilson grew up among books, flowers and pictures. In her early days she studied at the Art Students' League in New York, and it was while there that young Woodrow Wilson persuaded her to become his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were married on June 24, 1885. She was Miss Ellen Louise Axson, member of a distinguished family at Rome, Ga. Shortly after they were married Mr. Wilson was called to Bryn Mawr, where he became a member of the institution's first faculty. Three daughters were born of their marriage.

Margaret Wilson, the eldest daughter, is a singer of rare ability. She is exceedingly fond of the German classics and delights in such composers as Schumann, Schubert and Wagner. She is studying in New York and will continue her studies after she goes to the White House. Miss Margaret is the athlete of the Wilson family. She plays tennis very well, rows, swims better than most men and is interested in all outdoor sports.

There is only one suffragist in the Wilson family and that is Miss Jessie. She is an ardent believer in the right of women to vote, but she is not militant, and those who have heard her arguments say that they are conclusive. Miss Jessie is tall and slender and the kindly lines of her face are indicative of the work to which she has devoted herself. Although she has a decided talent for art, she prefers to give most of her time to settlement work in Philadelphia. She was graduated from a woman's college at Baltimore when she was twenty. Since then she has become a settlement worker, assisting Mrs. R. K. P. Bradford at the Light House, a big social centre among the mill workers in Kensington, Penn. Jessie Wilson is also fond of outdoor life, her chief diversions being tennis and golf, to which she gives first attention when not working in the slums of Philadelphia.

Eleanor Randolph Wilson, the youngest of the three daughters inherits a great deal of her mother's love for nature and art. She is now studying at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia and will continue to do so after her father goes to the White House. Miss Eleanor is an accomplished horsewoman.



Miss Eleanor Wilson



Miss Margaret Wilson  
PHOTO © CAMPBELL STUDIO



Miss Jessie Wilson